

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SMS-01 DLOS-09 OES-09
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00
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R 070836Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16146

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EFIS, JA, UR, CH
SUBJECT: ISHKOV REMARKS ON JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES

REF: A. TOKYO 11511; B. TOKYO 15343

1. JAPANESE PRESS PROMINENTLY FEATURED SEPTEMBER 5
STATEMENT BY SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV TO MULTI-
PARTISAN DIET DELEGATION THAT PROJECTED JOINT JAPAN-SOVIET
FISHERY PROJECTS WITHIN SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE WOULD HAVE TO
BE SCRAPPED FOR THIS YEAR BECAUSE FISHING SEASON WAS
APPROACHING END. ISHKOV REPORTEDLY ALSO GAVE DIETMEN REASON
TO BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE HARD LINE IN NOVEMBER TALKS
ON QUESTION OF SALMON QUOTA BEYOND 200 MILE LIMIT. JAPANESE
FISHING INDUSTRY WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SHOCKED BY ISHKOV
REMARKS, AND JAPANESE FISHERIES OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY
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ATTRIBUTED THEM TO SOVIET PIQUE OVER CONCLUSION OF SINO-
JAPAN PFT.

2. MOFA TAKES MORE RELAXED VIEW, AS IT CONSISTENTLY HAS IN
THESE MATTERS. SOVIET DIVISION DIRECTOR HYODO TOLD EMBOFF
ISHKOV REMARKS WERE NOT UNEXPECTED, AND IN FACT WERE
RELATIVELY "SOFT" IN BOTH TONE AND CONTENT. HYODO NOTED

THAT ISHKOV HAD NOT SUGGESTED JOINT FISHERY PROJECTS SHOULD BE CANCELED, AND THOUGHT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE VALIDITY IN STATEMENT THAT SEASON WAS TOO FAR GONE TO PERMIT THEM TO BEGIN THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, HYODO SAID ISHKOV'S ASSERTION THAT REASON FOR DELAY LAY WITH JAPANESE SIDE WAS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. INSTEAD, PROBLEM APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES WITHIN SOVIET GOVERNMENT, SINCE THERE WERE ASPECTS OF FISHERY COOPERATION PROJECTS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL BY AGENCIES OTHER THAN FISHERIES MINISTRY.

3. HYODO SAID ISHKOV HAD ALSO REMARKED THAT THERE SHOULD BE GREATER "RECIPROCITY" IN FISHERY COOPERATION PROJECTS. ISHKOV HAD NOT ELABORATED, BUT JAPANESE RECALL THAT ANOTHER, LOWER-RANKING SOVIET OFFICIAL RECENTLY REVIVED IDEA OF FISHING BOAT REPAIR FACILITY FOR SOVIET FLEET ON HOKKAIDO, AND THEY SUSPECT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT ISHKOV HAD IN MIND.

4. HYODO SAID ISHKOV DID NOT SAY ANYTHING WHICH WOULD INDICATE AN ESPECIALLY HARSH SOVIET LINE IN NEXT ROUND OF FISHERY TALKS, TO TAKE PLACE IN TOKYO IN NOVEMBER. HYODO SAID JAPANESE SIDE OF COURSE EXPECTED NEGOTIATIONS TO BE DIFFICULT, BUT THERE WAS NO REASON AT THIS POINT TO ASSUME SOVIETS WOULD INSIST ON "DRASTIC MEASURES", E.G., TOTAL BAN ON SALMON FISHING BEYOND 200 MILES.

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5. HYODO DID NOT RELATE ISHKOV REMARKS TO JAPAN-CHINA PFT, AND SAID ISHKOV APPEARED IN FACT TO HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO CHINA IN HIS LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH DIETMEN. ON CONTRARY, HYODO SAID HE CONTINUED TO DISCERN REMARKABLY NON-CONTENTIOUS PATTERN IN SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN RECENT WEEKS, AND SAW NOTHING IN ISHKOV REMARKS WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM TO CHANGE THAT ASSESSMENT. MANSFIELD

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